

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

Claims 12-16 and 18-28 are all the claims pending in the present Application. By this Amendment, Applicants editorially amend claim 12. By this Amendment, Applicants also cancel claims 16 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer. Finally, by this Amendment, Applicants add new claims 28 and 29. Ample support for the newly added claim can be found throughout the specification.

II. Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicants also thank Examiner Nguyen N. Hanh, for the courteous telephonic Interview on July 10, 2007. An Examiner's Interview Summary Record (PTO-413) was provided to the Applicants via mail on July 16, 2007. In conformance with the requirements of MPEP § 713.04, Applicants submit a Statement of Substance of the Interview. The Statement of Substance is as follows:

Applicant's representatives contacted the Examiner because the Office Action of June 6, 2007 failed to address claims 23-27, which were added in the Amendment of March 28, 2007. The Examiner indicated that a supplemental Action would be issued to correct the problem and the period for reply would be restarted. A new Office Action was issued on July 16, 2007, to which this Interview Summary was attached.

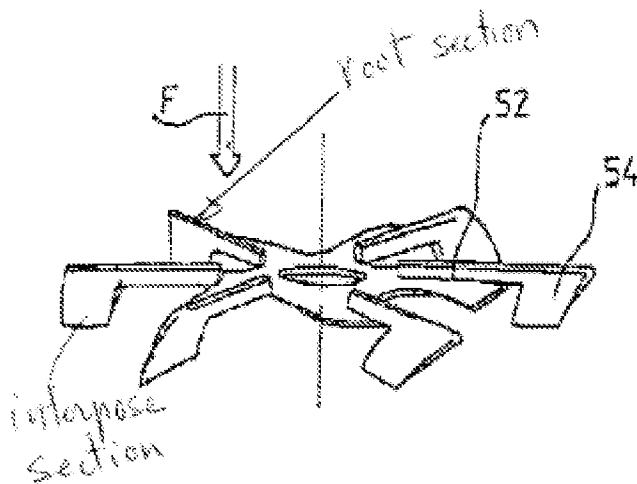
III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Baldoni (EP 799697) and claims 12, 14-18 and 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Vasilescu et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0030334). Applicants respectfully disagree.

With regard to claim 12, neither Baldoni or Vasilescu, either alone, or in combination, disclose, or even suggest, at least a fan having a “**blade including an interposed portion** extending axially from an end surface of said pole core between an adjacent pair of said claw-shaped magnetic poles **wherein the interposed portion is bent at a bent portion** so as to have an angular shape.”

Applicants note that this limitation was recited in claim 16. As described above, the Examiner has rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Vasilescu et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0030334). Applicants respectfully disagree.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Fig. 5 of Vasilescu discloses the above-recited limitation. That is, the Examiner asserts that FIG. 5 discloses “**an interposed portion ... wherein the interposed portion is bent at a bent portion.**” However, on pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner relies on the same FIG. 5 as allegedly disclosing an “interposed section that extends between the adjacent pair of claw shaped magnetic poles,” of claims 24 and 25. As additional support of her position, the Examiner provides a modified FIG. 5. A copy of the Examiner’s FIG. 5 is reproduced below.



As can be seen in the Examiner's modified FIG. 5, the entire element 54 is labeled as the alleged "interposed section." (See Also, Office Action, page 6). Simply relying on the Examiner's own position on the record, Applicants respectfully assert that FIG. 5 of Vasilescu does not disclose "**an interposed portion ... wherein the interposed portion is bent at a bent portion.**" Instead, as can be seen in the Examiner's own reproduction of FIG. 5, the alleged "interposed portion" (element 54) is **not bent**.

With respect to claims 15, 18 and 22-27, these claims depend from claim 12. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 15, 18 and 22-27 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 12. Claim 17 has been cancelled rendering this rejection moot.

With respect to claim 14, this claim depends from independent claim 12. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 14 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 12.

Moreover, with respect to claim 14, the Examiner initially asserts that claim 14 is anticipated by Vasilescu under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). However, on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Umeda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,011,332) as allegedly teaching the features of claim 14. Applicants respectfully assert that a rejection relying on the combination of references would need to be made under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, the Examiner's present rejection is improper. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 12 is patentable over the combined disclosure of Vasilescu and Umeda for reasons discussed above.

With respect to claim 21, Applicants respectfully assert that Vasilescu fails to teach, or even suggest, at least "blades of said fan [being] disposed at a **nonuniform pitch** circumferentially."

The Examiner refers to FIG. 2 as allegedly teaching this limitation of claim 21. This is incorrect, as FIG. 2 discloses the blades of the fan being disposed at a **uniform pitch** circumferentially. Vasilescu, at most, teaches distributing the blades irregularly **in the region of the cooling channels**. (See page 3, ¶ [0064]). However, Vasilescu does not teach this irregular distribution with respect to the **entire circumference** of the pole core. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 21 is allowable over the cited art of record.

IV. **Claim rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Vasilescu in view of Umeda

The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Vasilescu in view of Umeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,332).

With regard to claim 13, claim 13 depends from independent claim 12. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 13 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 12. Additionally, the Examiner combines the disclosure of Vasilescu, with that of Umeda, as allegedly teaching all of the features of claim 13. With regard to Vasilescu, Applicants have already addressed the deficiencies of Vasilescu, as recited above.

Umeda is directed to an alternator wherein the conductor segments 33, forming the stator winding of the stator 2, have coil ends 31 and are arranged such that air flows along the same direction of the conductor segments 33 without obstruction. (See FIGS. 2 and 5). Umeda also teaches that such an arrangement greatly increases cooling efficiency.

Accordingly, Umeda does not disclose or suggest the unique features of the amended claim 12. In other words, Umeda does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Vasilescu. In short, claim 12 and its dependent claim 13 are patentable over Vasilescu in view of Umeda.

Vasilescu in view of Hayashi

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Vasilescu in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,763,968). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Initially, Applicants note that claim 19 depends from independent claim 12. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 19 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 12.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully assert that Vasilescu fails to teach, or even suggest, “a distance between said interposed portion and said adjacent pair of claw-shaped magnetic poles [being] greater than a distance between an inner peripheral surface of said stator core and an outer peripheral surface of said rotor,” as recited in claim 19.

The Examiner contends that the above limitation of claim 19 is disclosed in FIGS. 1 and 2 of Vasilescu. Applicants respectfully disagree. “[I]t is well established that patent drawings do not define the precise proportions of the elements and may not be relied on to show particular sizes if the specification is completely silent on the issue.” (See MPEP § 2125). Moreover, “[w]hen the reference does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and is silent as to dimensions, arguments based on measurement of the drawing features are of little value.” (See *Hockerson-Halberstadt, Inc. v. Avia Group Int’l*, 222 F.3d 951, 956, 55 USPQ2d 1487, 1491 (Fed. Cir. 2000)).

In the present case, the disclosure of Vasilescu is silent with regard to the dimensions of the figures. Further, the disclosure of Vasilescu is silent with respect to the relationship between the “distance between said interposed portion and said adjacent pair of claw-shaped magnetic poles” and the “distance between an inner peripheral surface of said stator core and an outer

peripheral surface of said rotor.” Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner’s reliance on FIGS. 1 and 2 of Vasilescu is improper.

With regard to Hayashi, the Examiner relies on Hayashi only for its alleged teaching of a “dynamoelectric machine wherein the fan is made of iron.” (See Office Action, page 8). As such, Hayashi fails to cure the deficient disclosure of Vasilescu. For at least the above reasons Applicants respectfully assert that claim 19 is allowable over the cited art of record.

Vasilescu in view of Nagate

The Examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Vasilescu in view of Nagate et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,192).

With regard to claim 20, claim 20 depends from independent claim 12. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 20 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 12. With regard to Vasilescu, Applicants’ comments, as recited above, remain applicable. Further, because the Examiner relies on Nagate only for its alleged disclosure of a “dynamoelectric machine wherein the fan is constituted by a nonmagnetic material,” Nagate fails to cure the disclosure of Vasilescu.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). Applicants herewith petition the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 AND
STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Attorney Docket No.: Q92662
Application No.: 10/567,780

37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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